

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) A model adaptation apparatus ~~according to Claim 1, for~~
~~adapting a model used in pattern recognition in which input data in the form of a time series is~~
~~classified into one of a predetermined number of models, said apparatus comprising:~~
~~data extraction means for extracting input data corresponding to a predetermined model,~~
~~observed during a predetermined interval, and then outputting the extracted data; and~~
~~a model adaptation means for adapting said predetermined model using said data~~
~~extracted during said predetermined interval by means of one of the maximum likelihood~~
~~method, the mixed statistic method, and the minimum distance-maximum separation theorem;~~
~~wherein said model adaptation means adapts an acoustic model for ambient noise during a noise~~
~~observation interval that ends when a speech switch is turned on when a user starts speech;~~
wherein[[::]] said noise observation interval has a first sub-interval and a second sub-
interval beginning when the first sub-interval ends,
said data extraction means extracts a feature distribution corresponding to ambient noise
during said first sub-interval of a noise observation interval, and
said model adaptation means adapts said acoustic model for ambient noise during said
second sub-interval.